



**STATEMENT BY COMRADE DR. SAM NUJOMA,  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE  
NAMIBIAN NATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
SWAPO PARTY RALLY**

**OSHIFO – RUACANA  
OMUSATI REGION**

**19 APRIL 2009**

Comrade Governor of Omusati Region;  
Comrades Regional and Local Authority Councillors;  
Comrades Members of the SWAPO-Party Regional Executive Committee;  
Comrade Members of the SWAPO-Party District Leadership;  
Comrades,

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and address you here today.

This year, we celebrate the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SWAPO-Party, when it was formed on the 19 April 1960. The aims and objectives of SWAPO-Party were to liberate our country from the yoke of the minority, white apartheid colonialism of South Africa.

From that day, namely 19<sup>th</sup> April 1960, SWAPO mobilized all Namibians from all walks of life to stand up and fight for our genuine Freedom and Independence. Indeed, thousands, of Namibians, including the youth, workers, farmers, churches responded positively to SWAPO's clarion call to support the just cause of our Freedom.

Thousands of Namibian sons and daughters sacrificed their lives and shed their precious blood so that we can have freedom that we enjoy today. After the long protracted political, diplomatic and armed struggle, we finally achieved our final victory when we hoisted our flag of freedom on 21 March 1990 and we declared to the entire world that Namibia is free for ever. Indeed, it was the SWAPO-Party that served as a vanguard for the liberation of our motherland. Let all Namibians know that it is only the SWAPO-Party that liberated our country from apartheid and colonial oppression.

I am aware of some political parties in our country who are also claiming credit of having contributed to the attainment of our Freedom and Independence. But let us inform them loud and clear: "when the history our country is written, SWAPO will go down for having stood firm while others have wavered and compromised". Indeed, many political parties in Namibia today are those that have compromised. I am informed that they are going around the country making empty promises that they will make Namibia a better place. I am advising you, do not vote for them. Vote for the SWAPO-Party, the Party which has a rich history of bravely and gallantry and it stands ready as it has always been to improve the living standards of all Namibians.

Comrades,

After the achievement of our Freedom and Independence, the SWAPO-Party Government embarked upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence with the clear purpose of eradicating poverty, diseases and ignorance.

During the past nineteen years, the SWAPO-Party Government has implemented milestone development projects in all the thirteen regions of our country. These include the development of physical infrastructures such as the deepening of the port of Walvis Bay, the construction of the Trans-Kalahari and Trans-Caprivi Highways, the Northern Railway Extension from Tsumeb to Oshikango as well as the rehabilitation of the railway line from Aus to Luderitz and the construction of the tarred road from Rosh Pinah to Aus. Notably, in the Omusati Region, we are now expanding the Trans-Caprivi Highway from Rundu-Nkurenkure – Okongo – Eenhana – Omafo – Okalongo – Outapi – Tsandi – Omakange – Opuwo – Cape Fria.

Moreover, the SWAPO-Party Government has initiated the policy of decentralization. As a result, many towns have been proclaimed. In Omusati Region, we have proclaimed Outapi, Okahao, Oshikuku, while others such as Ruacana, Okalongo and Tsandi will be proclaimed, once all necessary legal instruments have been complied with. Our people now enjoy quality public services and other amenities. Our people can also own properties and enjoy dignified lives.

Comrades,

A nation that cannot produce its own food, cannot claim to be independence. It is for these reasons that the SWAPO-Party Government has prioritised the development and improvement of agriculture. Over the years, the SWAPO-Party Government has initiated programmes that are aimed at the improvement of agricultural production, including crop farming and aquaculture. Here in Omusati Region, the Government has established the Onavivi Aquaculture project, while the Etunda Irrigation project is commencing very well. Indeed, the SWAPO-Party Government will intensify its efforts to enhance food production in the country, especially through the Green Scheme Initiative along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers, as well as through drop irrigation in other regions.

Comrades,

Since the attainment of our Freedom and Independence, the SWAPO-Party Government has prioritised education and training of our people to enable them to contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of our country. While

we have build schools, and increased school enrolment at primary and secondary phase levels, we have also built vocational centres and expanded academic programmes at the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

On Friday, His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia officially inaugurated the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Namibia at Ongwediva.

Next year, 2010, the University of Namibia will open the new Faculty of Medicine. Soon, Namibia will have medical doctors and engineers trained in Namibia. These are all the successes of the SWAPO-Party Government. I, therefore, call upon all parents to ensure that our children attend school and take their education seriously so that they can contribute to the realization of Vision 2030.

Comrades,

This year, our country experiences challenges brought about by the world economic downturn as well as the floods which destroyed crops and infrastructure such as roads in various parts of our country.

The SWAPO-Party Government has promptly responded to these challenges. While budgetary and logistical arrangements have been made to mitigate the impact of the floods, we should embark upon measures including conducting scientific research to reduce such disasters in the future.

Indeed, these challenges represent a clarion call to action by all Namibians and we must prevail and win in the face of these internal enemies. Moreover, we must continue to embrace national unity, maintain peace and stability in the country so that we can achieve victory in our second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

We must particularly give attention to the growth of our economy through the promotion of value addition and manufacturing ventures so that we can produce finished goods for local consumption and export the surplus to other countries thereby enhancing the competitive of our economy and create employment opportunities for jobless Namibians.

During the past 19 years, the SWAPO-Party Government has created conducive environment for the growth of medium and small businesses. I am pleased to state that many Namibian businesses has risen to the challenge and established profitable ventures which have created employment opportunities for our people.

Indeed, opportunities abound in all the 13 regions of our country. However, it is a pity that some regional and local authorities look up to the Central Government to provide them with everything. This thing of only waiting for the Government to provide everything, including things that we can do ourselves is creating a dependency syndrome among our people.

It is therefore imperative that Regional and Local Authorities initiate viable projects in the regions so that we can eradicate hunger, poverty and underdevelopment in the country. Regional and Local Authorities must particularly embark upon programmes that promote value addition and benefitions of our natural resources so that we can improve the standards of living for all our citizens.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage fellow Namibians to take up the challenge and establish businesses so that we can improve the growth of our national economy. The SWAPO-Party Government has established the Development Bank of Namibia to provide funding for profitable and productive ventures. You only need to produce a bankable business plan and approach the Development Bank for funding. But it is really a pity that only few Namibians have taken up the challenge.

Comrades,

This year, our country will hold presidential and National Assembly Elections. As members of SWAPO-Party, we must enter these elections united and with only one common purpose, namely to win the elections with 100 percent.

As members of SWAPO-Party, we must remain committed to the promotion of unity of purpose and act with dedication and in the interests of the Party and in the national interest on Namibia. It is equally imperative to continue to educate our members about the aims and objectives of SWAPO-Party. By so-doing, we will ensure that SWAPO-Party becomes a political hope for all Namibians and lead our country towards genuine economic independence.

Finally, SWAPO-Party wishes all SWAPO-Party members, supporters and sympathizers a happy 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. May the ideals of the SWAPO-Party, for which thousands of Namibia's illustrious sons and daughters sacrificed their lives and shed their precious blood, be the guiding light in our second struggle for economic independence.

Remember, a united people striving to achieve common good for all members of the society will always emerge victorious.

Long Live the SWAPO-Party!  
SWAPO United!  
SWAPO Victorious!